

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

Urban District of Mold,

For the Year 1937.

Medical Officer's Annual Report.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Mold Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I present my Annual Report for the year ending
December 31st, 1937.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The only industry in this area is a small Tinplate Works, which has during the year been working short time and has been the cause of unemployment.

Mold is the Market Town for surrounding Agricultural districts.

Area (in Acres)—1160.

Population to middle of 1937—5680.

Rateable Value—£33,127.

Number of Inhabited Houses—1600.

Sum represented by 1d. Rate—£128.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	M.	F.	
Live Births	.. ..	134	68	66	Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated population 23·59
Legitimate	.. ..	128	65	63	
Illegitimate	.. ..	6	3	3	
Still Births—					
Legitimate	.. ..	5	2	3	Rate per 1000 (live and still) births 24·47.
Illegitimate	.. ..	—	—	—
Deaths	.. ..	77	38	39	Death Rate per 1000 of es- timated resident popula- tion 13·55

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.

Other Puerperal causes—Nil.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS under 1 year of age :

	Rate.
All Infants per 1000 live births	44.7
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	39.0
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	8.2
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—16	2.81
„ Measles (all ages)—1	0.17
„ Diarrhœa (under 2 years)—Nil.	

The Birth Rate, 23.59, compares favourably with that of last year, 17.41. The Death Rate is 13.55, against 11.13 for 1936. The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1937 was 14.9 and the Death Rate 12.5.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.
All Causes (Total 77) ...	38	39
Measles	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	—
Diphtheria	—	1
Influenza	1	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory system ...	3	—
Cancer	6	10
Diabetes	1	1
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	2	6
Heart Disease	8	4
Other Circulatory diseases	1	3
Bronchitis	2	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	2	6
Peptic Ulcer	1	—
Other Liver diseases	—	1
Other Digestive diseases	1	—
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	1	—
Congenital debility and Premature birth ...	3	—
Senility	1	3
Other Violence	1	—
Other defined diseases	3	2
Ill-defined or not known	—	1

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES
IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Authority :—

Medical Officer of Health (part time)—

I. PHILIPPINE NELIS,

L.R.C.P & S.I., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector (part time)—

EVAN T. WILLIAMS,

Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I.,

(Meat and Foods Cert.)

(a)—Laboratory Facilities.

The Chester Assaye Office.

(b)—Ambulance.

There is none.

(c)—Nursing in the Home.

This is carried on by Voluntary organisation.

(d)—Clinics and Treatment.

Administered by the County Council.

(e)—Hospitals.

There is a Cottage Hospital supported by voluntary subscriptions.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.
WATER.

There is no alteration from last year. The supply which is owned by a private Company, is derived from the slopes of Moel Fammau, a high and safe gathering ground. Samples have been taken from time to time and analyses proved satisfactory.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

Several streams have been cleansed, and the River Alyn, which often overflowed the surrounding fields, has been greatly improved by the Dee Conservancy Board cleaning the river bed.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Since the last Annual Report was submitted a further sewer extension has been undertaken to open up another portion of the area added under the Flint Review Order. This was the Clay Lane sewer extension consisting of some 430 yards of 6" diam. sewer at a cost of £508. The Council has provided three sewer extensions in three years. The extent of area sewered remains the same as last year with the exception of the above extension.

The Disposal Works were mentioned in the 1935 and 1936 Reports, and the unsatisfactory position remains unchanged. The matter should receive the serious consideration of the Council.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

One existing house was connected to the sewer and the cesspool abolished.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Remarks made last year regarding Trade Refuse still obtain. Complaints of the efficiency of collection were practically non-existent. It is to be regretted that more refuse is not burnt by the ratepayers to assist in easing the burden of cost.

The costs from 1st April, 1937, to 31st March, 1938, are given below:—

Total cost (collection and disposal)	...	£622/9/6
Number of loads	... ..	1208
Average weight per load	... ..	35 cwts.
Aggregate weight	... ..	2114 tons
Total cost per load	... ..	10/3.67d.
Total cost per ton	... ..	5/10.67d.
Population	... ..	5680
Cost per head	... ..	2/2.30d.
Cost per 1000 houses	... ..	£389/0/11

Cost of Disposal (included in above) only:—

Total cost	... ..	£143/15/10
Cost per load	... ..	2/4.57d.
Cost per ton	... ..	1/4.32d.
Cost per head	... ..	6.07d.
Cost per 1000 houses	... ..	£89/17/5

A certain amount of picking of debris is carried on at week ends when the tipping site is unattended. This causes disturbance of the covering material besides being an objectionable practice. It is an offence under the new Public Health Act, 1936.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Some considerable progress has been made to improve the conditions of the working class population by the Council's activities under the Clearance Order of the Housing Acts. But progress in the administration of other parts of the Housing Acts, i.e. re-conditioning and repair, and in the working of the Public Health Acts, has lagged behind for years. This is easily realised when the volume of work done and to be done on the Surveyor's side is considered. The Welsh Board of Health referred to this last year after the visit of their Dr. Trefor Jones, in September, 1937. The general sanitation of the town is fair, but there is room for improvement. The number of houses with common stand-

pipes and insufficient sanitary accommodation is high and it is to be hoped that pressure of work will, in the near future, be eased on the engineering side, so that adequate attention can be paid to this important aspect of the administrative services. These remarks have added force when the Council's present commitments in Housing and Highways are considered.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.

Detailed list of Inspections.

Cattle Mart	...	...	...	2
Shops and Food stores		...	...	18
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	43
Infectious Diseases and Disinfection			...	15
Interviews with owners or agents			...	31
Re-visits to premises under notice			...	86
To complaints or defects		...	...	54
New property in course of erection			...	32
Bakehouses	...	...	...	3
Visits re overcrowding	...	...	...	8
To Tip and Disposal Works			...	21
House to house inspections			...	104
Workshops	...	...	...	2
Clay Lane Sewer Extension			...	26
Public Conveniences	...	...	...	7
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	...	12
Total				464
Informal Notices served—				
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	47
Housing Acts	...	...	...	Nil
Statutory Notices served—				
Public Health Acts	...	...	...	6
Housing Acts	...	...	...	Nil

Work done after Informal Notices—

Eaves gutters renewed	...	...	...	1
Sanitary Conveniences cleansed	...	...	...	2
Drain chokages relieved	...	...	...	7
Rubbish mounds removed	...	...	...	1
Watercourses cleaned out	...	...	...	6
Repairs to yard floors	...	...	...	2
General House repairs	...	...	...	2
Hedges lopped	...	...	...	5
Defective rain water pipes repaired	...	...	...	1
Connection to sewer (Cesspool abolished)	...	...	...	1

N.B.—The above list does not include repairs to Council Houses.

SHOPS.

Hitherto, no action has been taken under the Shops Act, 1934, but it is contemplated during the current year. A register of shops should be compiled and exemption certificates issued where necessary.

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No action.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No action taken during the year neither in Council nor in other houses. The remarks made last year under the heading "Other Houses" still remain good.

SCHOOLS.

Visited periodically. There are three Elementary Schools and one County School. Sanitation and water supply satisfactory.

Section D—HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 158

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	244
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (a) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	104
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	150
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	71
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation	5
2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notice.	
Number of dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	Nil
3. Action under Statutory powers during the year.	
(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—	
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling houses rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 2

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice:—

(a) By Owners 2

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 2

(2) Number demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 Housing Act, 1936:—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil

(2) Number in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, etc. Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936—Part 4—Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 58

(2) Number of families dwelling therein ... 66

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 311½

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

- (c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved
 during the year Nil
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such
 cases Nil
- (d) Particulars of re-overcrowding Nil
- (e) Any other particulars:—

Certificates of Permitted Number issued 18

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) Milk Supply.

The Council has decided to provide for sampling to be re-commenced during the current year and for the future, as a result of representations made by the Officials re-enforced by Dr. Trefor Jones' visit last year. Standard of cleanliness is satisfactory generally.

(b) Meat and other Foods.

Some small improvement is shewn in the number of inspections compared with last year, and, it is hoped, that the improvement will be continued as the work in other directions eases.

CARCASSES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, exclud- ing Cows	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (if known) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Number Inspected ..	20	8	—	89	23
All Diseases except Tuberculosis.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part of organ was condemned	—	3	—	3	—
% of the No. inspected af- fected with disease other than Tuberculosis ..	—	37 5	—	3 36	—
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis. ..	—	—	—	—	—

(c) Adulteration

Administered by County Council.

(d) Nutrition.

No action.

(e) Shellfish.

There are no beds in the area.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Age Periods.	under 1	1	2	3	4	5	10	15	20	25	35	45	65	Pro- tal.
Scarlet Fever ..			1			6	2	1						10
Diphtheria ..			3	2	2	8	6	1	1					23
Puerperal Perexia									2					2
Pneumonia ..											3			3
Erysipelas ..											1	1		2
Total ..			4	2	2	14	8	2	3		4	1		40

	Hospital.	Deaths.	Rate.
Scarlet Fever ..			1.7
Diphtheria ..	2	1	4.04
Puerperal Pyrexia ..			0.35
Pneumonia ..			0.52
Erysipelas ..			0.35

The cases of Diphtheria commenced in the month of March, and ran through a row of very insanitary old cottages, mostly overcrowded, and the subject of repeated representations to the Council, on the inadequacy of closets, drains, etc. With so active an infection and overcrowding, the disease had no sooner abated by July, than it began again in the same row of houses. This is the first notifiable epidemic of any importance that has affected Mold since 1912—with the exception of a few cases in 1917.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

This is administered by the County Council.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
5	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..
15	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	..
25	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
35	2	1	1	..	..	..	..	..
45	3	..	..	..	2	..	..	..
55	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
65 upwards.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
	8	1	1	1	3	..	..	..

Rate ... 1 9

Death Rate ... 0·5

The notification of Tuberculosis in the area has been efficient. No action has been taken.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified.	Treated at Home.	In Hospital.	Vision Unimpaired	Vision Impaired	Total Blindness.
1	1	—	—	—	—

Rate per 1000 Live Births 7.4.

FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND
WORKPLACES.

Periodical visits are made to Workshops in the district, and all have been found to comply with requirements.

I. PHILIPPINE NELIS,

Medical Officer of Health.

The Manse, Mold,

July 20th, 1938.





